

In the claims

Claims 33 to 37 (Cancelled)

Claims 38 (Currently Amended) A bowler's finger pad shield for protecting a finger pad from the force produced when applying lift to a bowling ball, to rotate or spin the ball at its release, comprising:

a) a finger pad shield with an open end adapted for insertion of a finger pad, said finger pad shield including a first surface and a second surface, extending from said open end; said first surface including a contact area located proximate said open end and positioned relative to said open end to receive a finger pad;

€) b) said second surface is opposed to said first surface;

d) c) said finger pad shield is adapted for insertion into the finger hole of a bowling ball, to place said second surface in contact with a bowling ball finger hole; and wherein

e) d) said finger pad shield includes at least one fastener to hold said contact area in a fixed relationship with a finger pad; wherein a force produced in the release and lifting of the bowling ball, is spread over said contact area, and The bowler's finger pad shield of claim 33, wherein said finger pad shield includes a raised surface for contacting the surface of a bowling ball; said raised surface is located proximate said open end and adapted to limit the depth of insertion of said finger pad shield into the finger hole of a bowling ball.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented) The bowler's finger pad shield means of Claim 38, wherein said raised surface extends in a direction away from said finger pad shield and said contact area.

Claim 40 to 44 (Cancelled)

Claim 45 (Currently Amended). A bowler's aid for assisting a bowler in applying the a bowler's maximum natural force through the bowler's finger pad inserted in a bowling ball finger hole, in lifting and rotating the bowling ball at its release, comprising,

a) a finger pad shield with an open end adapted for insertion of a finger pad on said finger pad shield; said finger pad shield including a contact area located proximate said open end and adapted to receive a finger pad in said contact area; and wherein,

b) said finger pad shield is substantially rigid to resist deformation from a force produced when a maximum natural force is applied through a finger hole of said bowling ball, to lift and rotate said bowling ball at its release, and to spread said force produced, over said contact area and ~~The bowler's aid of claim 40,~~ wherein said finger pad shield includes a raised surface extending away from said finger pad shield and said contact area and adapted to contact the surface of a bowling ball; and limit the depth of insertion of said finger pad shield into the finger hole of a bowling ball.

Claims 46 to 52 (Cancelled)

Claim 53 (Currently Amended) A bowler's finger pad shield for protecting a bowlers finger pad when inserted into a bowling ball finger hole, from the force produced when lifting the bowling ball to apply spin or rotation at its release, comprising,

a) means for forming a contact area with a finger pad;

b) means for holding a finger pad in a fixed position with said means for forming a contact area and in a fixed position with a contact area formed with said means for forming a contact area with a finger pad;

b) c) said means for forming a contact area with a finger pad including means for spreading a force produced when applying lift to said bowling ball, at its release, over said contact area. ~~The bowler's aid of claim 46~~ and including means for contacting the surface of a bowling ball to limit the depth of insertion into the finger hole of a bowling ball of said means for forming a contact area with a finger pad.

Claims 54 to 58 (Cancelled)